

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for product tracking in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
 - (a) a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent outlets of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the independent outlets;
 - (b) generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering ~~products~~items from a-an independent distributor of the franchise supply chain, wherein the electronic order forms indicate an amount of the ~~products~~-items ordered by each independent outlet, with the supply chain management computer storing a copy of the order forms;
 - (c) electronically receiving quality data from independent suppliers and/or the independent distributors at the supply chain management computer utilizing the network; and
 - (d) the supply chain management computer tracking an amount and a location of the ~~products~~items utilizing the data and the forms; and
 - (e) the independent supply chain manager electronically initiating a timely recall notice to appropriate supply members based on the quality data.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~products~~-items are tracked for recall purposes.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount and the location of the ~~products~~items are tracked by a calculation based on~~subtracting~~ the amount of products sold ~~from~~and the amount of ~~products~~items ordered for each of the outlets.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount and the location of the ~~products~~items is audited.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of products sold and the amount of ~~products-items~~ ordered are accessible via a network-based interface.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for product tracking in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

an electronic storage; and

a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following items:

(a) logic for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent outlets of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the independent outlets;

(b) logic for generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering ~~productsitems~~ from ~~a~~ an independent distributor of the franchise supply chain, wherein the electronic order forms indicate an amount of the ~~products-items~~ ordered by each independent outlet, with the supply chain management computer storing a copy of the order forms;

(c) logic for electronically receiving quality data relating to the items from independent suppliers and/or the independent distributors at the supply chain management computer utilizing the network; and

(d) logic for the supply chain management computer tracking an amount and a location of the ~~productsitems~~ utilizing the data and the forms; and

(e) logic for the independent supply chain manager electronically initiating a timely recall notice to appropriate supply members based on the quality data.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the ~~productsitems~~ are tracked for recall purposes.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the amount and the location of the ~~products~~items are tracked by a calculation based on~~subtracting~~ the amount of products sold ~~from~~and the amount of ~~products~~items ordered for each of the outlets.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the amount and the location of the ~~products~~items is audited.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the amount of products sold and the amount of ~~products~~items ordered are accessible via a network-based interface.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for product tracking in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code, when executed, causing a machine to perform the following method steps

(a) computer code for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent outlets of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the independent outlets;

(b) computer code for generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering ~~products~~items from ~~a~~an independent distributor of the franchise supply chain, wherein the electronic order forms indicate an amount of the ~~products~~items ordered by each independent outlet, with the supply chain management computer storing a copy of the order forms;

(c) computer code for electronically receiving quality data from independent suppliers and/or the independent distributors at the supply chain management computer utilizing the network; and

(d) computer code for the supply chain management computer tracking an amount and a location of the ~~products~~items utilizing the data and the forms; and

(e) computer code for the independent supply chain manager electronically initiating a timely recall notice to appropriate supply members based on the quality data

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the ~~products~~items are tracked for recall purposes.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the amount and the location of the ~~products~~items are tracked by a calculation based on~~subtracting~~ the amount of products sold ~~from~~and the amount of ~~products~~items ordered for each of the outlets.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the amount and the location of the ~~products~~items is audited.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the amount of products sold and the amount of ~~products~~items ordered are accessible via a network-based interface.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.